



*Helping to Preserve the Rural Landscape of the Mt. Kearsarge/Lake Sunapee Region
Andover, Bradford, Danbury, Gosben, Grantham, New London, Newbury, Springfield, Sunapee, Sutton, Warner, & Wilmot*



CHATTER

Winter 2010



This is the view from the Ausbon Sargent protected property #10 abutting Old Coach Road and Rt. 114 in New London and Sutton. The original easement of 31 acres was donated in 1991 by the Emersons and is now owned by the Clarks. This is part of the sunrise view described in Ausbon Sargent Board of Trustees member John Garvey's article, "Seeing the Light."

Seeing the Light:

An early morning ride through a cherished landscape.

by John Garvey

A few months ago, I was driving down Main Street in New London in the early morning hours. This is something I do regularly on my way to work in Concord. As I drive, I will often appreciate the first glimpse of Mt. Kearsarge through the fields on my left and the bucolic scene of grazing animals in the pasture on my right. On this particular morning, as I looked out at the corrugated streaks of

red that were just beginning to illuminate Mt. Kearsarge, I found myself pulling over to take it all in. It was one of those intensely spiritual moments when I was overwhelmed by the majesty, and it has become a cherished picture in my mental photo album.

I am fortunate to have many other pictures in that album. And like the picture from that special morning,

so many of the scenes are of Ausbon Sargent protected land. On any given day, I drive by many gratifying views which bear the familiar squirrel sign, marking an Ausbon Sargent protected property. A quick look at the map on the Ausbon Sargent website shows that you cannot drive in this area without passing multiple protected locations.

But it's a lot more than views
(continued on page 2)



From the Executive Director:

As this issue of Chatter goes to press, I'm struck by the contrast between last year's apprehension and this year's sense of optimism. Like many nonprofits, we started to feel the impact of the recession and quickly decided that some of the old ways of doing business might no longer work. Rather than be discouraged, our board, staff and committees knew our

members valued our mission so we adopted a positive attitude that combined additional frugality with the belief that success results when we all work together. Yes, some members have had to cut back on their giving, while others have found ways to give more. Together - we are doing better than we imagined.

This recession became an opportunity to do a better job of telling our story that Ausbon Sargent does make a difference in everyone's daily lives. This story includes not only that we protect lands, but that we have assumed the responsibility to steward these lands forever. We save farms like Spring Ledge and Courser, so you can have fresh local food. And we save places like King Hill Reservation, the Webb properties and Clark Lookout so that you, your family and pets can take a walk in the woods and enjoy the beauty of our natural places. Every day residents and visitors alike are enriched when they drive past the scenic undeveloped lands conserved by Ausbon Sargent.

Last spring our business members told us that they wanted us to have maps available of those properties that allow for public access. We listened and now printable trail maps are available on our website. Our conserved properties provide

folks opportunities for nearby recreation and exercise at no cost. Families don't have to spend money when exploring places like the Cook Interpretative Trail, Bradford Bog and Low Plain Natural Area.

Early in August we received some exciting news. We were awarded accreditation after a year-long review of our systems and policies by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. In 2005, the Land Trust Alliance announced that an accreditation commission would be established in 2006 for the purpose of providing independent verification that land trusts meet high standards and operate in an ethical, legal and technically sound manner. The Accreditation Commission was the outcome of IRS and Congressional scrutiny of charities and conservation land transactions. Less than 5% of land trusts across the country have been awarded accreditation and only two land trusts in New Hampshire have achieved this distinction of excellence. We are very proud of this achievement! And this is not the only award received this past year, the New Hampshire Chapter of The Nature Conservancy named us Conservation Partner of the Year.

As always, I am heartened by the outpouring of support and generosity of our easement donors and members, dedicated trustees and volunteers, talented staff and supportive partner organizations. Special thanks to both the Virginia Cretella Mars Foundation and the Leatherwood Foundation for their extraordinary commitment to preserving lands that make the Mt Kearsarge/Lake Sunapee region a special place to live and visit. As author and global lecturer Margaret Wheatley would say, "There is no power greater than a community discovering what it cares about."

Thank you all,

Making Promises

"In accepting easements, Ausbon Sargent makes promises to future generations.

We all take those promises very seriously. It is through the foresight of people like Cotton and John who have recently made a major gift that we will keep those promises. On behalf of the Ausbon Sargent board, staff and our membership, I would like to thank them for their generosity."

- Heidi Rice Lauridsen, Chair Board of Trustees

(continued from page 1) from a car. My wife, Cotton, and I are hikers. Together with our dog, Bessie, we regularly enjoy the trails in the area, and my mental photo album is always growing. The album includes many scenes from the endless variety of terrain and vegetation on the Spofford trails and wonderful vistas from the Webb Forest Preserve. There are pictures of Bessie galloping through the woods beside the Cook trails, and expansive views from Clark Lookout. There are many others that are appreciated again and again, with other property still to discover.

On that special morning before Mt. Kearsarge, which was otherwise like most mornings, I really got it that the quality of my life has been immeasurably enhanced by the generosity of many landowners and the hard work of the Ausbon Sargent extended family. I looked at that view and knew that it would be there - not only for my children - but for my children's children's children. Ausbon Sargent easements are for perpetuity, which means "endless or indefinitely long in duration or existence." What a wonderful gift to the world and the many creatures who share its space. I suddenly remembered my father, who was an early Ausbon Sargent trustee, driving me by the same pasture years ago,

and excitedly explaining to me that it had been preserved. I was happy for his excitement then, but now I truly shared it. As the sun came up over Mt. Kearsarge that morning, I really saw the light.

In addition to feeling gratitude to the landowners, I was overwhelmed by the significance of the commitment Ausbon Sargent makes every time it accepts an easement. Ausbon Sargent assumes the legal responsibility of monitoring and protecting each easement forever. While the benefit of each easement will remain with the public in future generations, the responsibility of protecting the easement will be passed down from generation to generation of the Ausbon Sargent family. This obligation is literally far-reaching; it includes routinely monitoring the land, documenting conditions, and enforcing or defending the easement in the case of violations or challenges which could result in litigation. It occurred to me that not everyone has land to donate, but we ALL have land to protect. Ausbon Sargent is already committed to protecting over 6,000 acres on over 100 properties, and the anticipated cost of that obligation and of future commitments should be fully endowed. *(continued on page 3)*

(continued from page 2)

So now, when I donate to Ausbon Sargent, I don't just think about the immediate costs of day-to-day operations. I think about forever. I think that with our donations today, we can all still be there in 200 years, showing our great-great-great-great grandchildren and nieces and nephews the view across the field of a new dawn over Mt. Kearsarge.

John Garvey is our first second-generation Ausbon Sargent trustee. His father, Dale Garvey, was the first secretary of the board and his father-in-law, Jim Cleveland, was an initial funder and benefactor. John is an arbitrator and mediator and teaches at Pierce Law in Concord. He would be delighted if his family one day includes the first third-generation trustee.

In 2001, Ralph and Mary Lou "Mickey" Spofford of New London granted Ausbon Sargent a conservation easement on their property northwest of Pleasant Lake. These 21 acres include forest, apple trees, and a beautiful, five-acre meadow which is part of the historic Bunker Farm site. As John Garvey mentions in his article, this land is part of a regional network of hiking trails providing for permanent public access to the property, which is also surrounded by protected lands. This photo (right) is of an original oil painting of the Bunker Farm meadow by Aline E. Ordman (www.thebanksgallery.com).



A Natural Legacy - Giving to Our Future

by Debbie Hall

The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust is blessed to have generous members who not only give as members, but also remember us in their estate planning. Sometimes those plans are known to us; others are total surprises. The gifts can take different forms, as is the case with the four member-donors we highlight in this column. What the donors all have in common is a deep appreciation for the values of open space and the beauty of the Mt. Kearsarge/Lake Sunapee region and an important personal relationship with someone who is an ASLPT supporter.

Roland Carreker, who died in June 2008, was, with his late wife, Miriam, an "ardent environmentalist." They were very early members of ASLPT. From their summer cottage on Burpee Hill, they became concerned as they observed in the 1980's the increased development in New London. They were close friends of Bessie Phillips, herself an important easement donor. In addition, they learned from one of their neighbors who worked at Coldwell Banker about how Coldwell Banker for many years has donated a percentage of each year's profits to ASLPT. The combination of their own feelings for the land and their personal relationships with supportive friends led to Mr. Carreker's naming ASLPT as a beneficiary of the balance of his Individual Retirement Account.

Marilyn Johnson, who died in June 2009, was a natural "green thumb" and an avid bird watcher and naturalist. She was an active member of both the Audubon Society and The Nature Conservancy, in addition to her membership in ASLPT. Her lifelong celebration of the natural world prompted her family to designate ASLPT as a recipient of memorial gifts.

Sydney ("Syd") Badmington, who grew up in Newport and died in October 2009, was a major contributor to the New London community, including working with the Outing Club and Pony Club. She was a passionate protector of the Town as

a member of the Planning Board. Above all, she had what a family member calls a "visceral attachment to her land" near Little Sunapee, which she personally mowed until age 80. Her love of the region and her land led her family also to name ASLPT as a recipient of memorial gifts on her death.

For Virginia Anthony Soule, who died in August 2009, the road to ASLPT was intensely personal. On moving to New London, she struck up a conversation with an elderly neighbor who turned out to be Ausbon Sargent. The two became close friends: he took her on a hike to show her Morgan Pond, the Town's water source, and they later celebrated their birthdays together. Mrs. Soule was deeply impressed by Mr. Sargent's gift of the town common to the Town. Her admiration of Mr. Sargent and her belief in the preservation of open space led her to make a bequest to ASLPT in her will.

These four individuals came to Ausbon Sargent by different routes, but all exemplify involvement and belief in land protection and the importance of personal connections in creating support for ASLPT. The manner in which they made their gifts

– naming Ausbon Sargent as a beneficiary of an IRA, a bequest under a will and memorial gifts – reflect the simplest and most common ways a committed donor can make an estate planning contribution to maintaining ASLPT in perpetuity. We hope many other members will consider following their example. If you would like to discuss making a deferred gift to ASLPT, please contact Debbie Stanley at 526-6555. And if you have already made such a gift, please let us know so that we can thank you in person and enroll you as a member of our Acorn Society.

Debbie Hall is the chairman of the Ausbon Sargent Planned Giving Committee and a member of the Development Committee. She is a retired attorney who lives with her husband Arthur on the west slope of Pleasant Lake in New London.

"...we make a life by what we give"

-Winston Churchill

The Gross Family Easement – *A Family Gift of Place*

100.5 acres, Andover

by Nancy Teach

It's the place you see in the evening hours during the winter holiday season traveling westbound on Route 11 through Andover's village. The lighted silhouettes of a barn mark the property of the Gross family. During the daylight hours the passerby can see the barn has a giant wreath.

This property, all 100.5 acres, has been the gathering place since 1968 for the Gross family. I recently sat in the family farm house with the five siblings - Donna Vilsmeier, and Donald, Russell, Richard and Raymond Gross. (Raymond on a cell phone conference call from Colorado.) We talked about this place and why a conservation easement is important to the Gross family.

Chatter: Can you tell me how this property came to be part of your family?

Don: Our grandfather started a trucking business in New Jersey and trucked for A&P food stores. The family company started to get a bit sour and Dad wanted to take his wife and five children away from the business and the city. We camped a lot as a family; we loved the outdoors. Mom and Dad wanted the open spaces we didn't have in New Jersey.

Chatter: This was a brave thing to do.

Don: It was pretty scary I would say. Mom and Dad arrived here in August with five kids, a tractor trailer full of things and no jobs.

Russell: We moved into the cabins, part of the motel, until the farmhouse was ready for us. They gave up a lot to get to what they thought was a good future, which brings us to the land.

Don: It kind of brings us to the end of the story. Why it was so important to them and why it is important to us to make sure that that stays, open land for everyone to enjoy.

Chatter: Will you allow public access?

Don: Yes, we always have. My parents allowed anyone to come here to recreate. It was always about this piece of property and what it meant to them. So it is up to us to preserve it, not knowing what any of our future generations might decide to do. This way it's guaranteed that what they wanted stays here for grandkids, great grandkids, all of our friends and folks in town who always came here to recreate can continue to do so.

Chatter: So that's how you see the residents of Andover and others benefitting from your conservation easement.

Ray: Dad and Mom would always have the Boy Scouts camp out in the back. They let the town dig up the top soil in the center of the field to use for the initial ball park in Andover; again trying to help the public. It was land, land for everybody to use that's what kind of led us to this point. We saw what our parents did and that the land was important and to allow access. I remember when we had the motel; people would come to the door and if we were full Mom and Dad would let them camp out in the back. Just kind of open use.

Chatter: Can we talk about some of your own experiences as children on this land, in these woods?

Donna: I was only here two years, then left to go into the military for awhile out in Colorado, got married and we moved to Nashua. I came up here and brought my kids; we'd sleigh ride in the back and find frogs in the little brook along our property. And now I bring my grand kids.



At the top of the field seen from Rt. 11, behind the house and barns is a lovely, grassy logging road that winds uphill along the south side of Ragged Mountain through the primarily forested 100.5 acres of the Gross Family conservation easement.

photo: Nancy Lyon

Don: My parents were extremely generous people even when we had little money. They never stopped giving. Mom was a public health nurse for the State of New Hampshire. She always wanted to work where the need was the greatest. Our dad was a quiet person. One of the things he used to do at Christmas time was go to the store, fill-up the family station wagon with toys and drive right to Boys Town. Dad always donated what he could to kids.

Russell: Sometimes I would get sent out of the house. You could get away. We were typical kids outside all the time. We had a barn full of things that Dad would use to fix the things we broke.

Don: The wind and snow really blew around here. One winter's storm we actually got stuck in the house and had to climb out a second story window, only to get literally buried in the snow.

Rich: We used to race around the outer edges of the field on snowmobiles.

Ray: I remember lots of laps around the field – snowmobiles, mini bikes or dirt bikes on a good day. As the youngest, I lived here the longest. When my big brothers were around they used to hook me up on skis with a rope and pull me around with the snowmobile.

Chatter: In the summer you might see party tents set up and tractors lined up outside the barns.

Don: Yes, we've hosted Mom's retirement party, family reunions and birthday parties. This is a place to gather and you are always welcome.

Rich: Dad died in 1987. The land is in current use, a certified tree farm to protect habitat for deer, moose, bear, woodland birds, reptiles and of course insects. Now we use a forester and are doing a better job of maintaining the property for wildlife. We've done a few select cuts for logs - take a little and shoring up the floor of the forest. This is one of the places in town that people look for wildlife. There are always turkeys here.



Don Gross chatting with Ausbon Sargent Board Chair Heidi Rice Lauridsen, at the Ausbon Sargent Annual Meeting this October 2009. Together with his three brothers and sister they donated a conservation easement on the family property in Andover.

in Colorado. Russell lives and works in Sutton. Don is retired and lives in Andover. Rich's home is next door to the family land. They're working to reclaim the soil (remember that early ball park). Manure came from Seery Hill to feed the field and the first crop of pumpkins last summer. A new mid-size barn is ready for Kat Darling's farm stand and for others to sell home-grown food, baked goods and for Rich's handcrafted wooden breadboards and the boys' picnic tables. So next time you're in the neighborhood, know it's open and you are welcome.

Nancy Teach lives in the community of Andover on a small piece of land that allows her to roll up her sleeves and practice sustainability. As a staff member at Colby-Sawyer College and former Ausbon Sargent Board member (and Chairman), Nancy works collaboratively with local residents, students, trustees, staff and faculty on projects that benefit the communities served by Ausbon Sargent.

The Facts About The Gross Family Conservation Easement

- Location: Rt. 11 - 1 mile west of Andover Village
 - Acreage: 100.5 acres
 - Frontage on a public road making it a gateway property for Andover
- Expands a corridor of conserved properties on the south side of Ragged Mountain
- Primarily forestland with 2,263' on Cold Brook that flows into the Blackwater River
 - Excellent wildlife habitat
- Includes sightings of Wood Turtle (a species of special concern) & Ginseng (a threatened species in NH)
- A population of Brook Floater (state endangered mussel) is located within .5 mile of property
 - Public access for pedestrian use

Donna: I did not want to move here. I could not foresee how it was going to be good for myself. We came up here and saw it was a beautiful piece of property. You go through some changes and you make it work.

Chatter: I feel like this is a gateway to Andover. What would your parents say if they were alive today and knew you all agreed to put the family land in a conservation easement?

Russell: My parents would say, "They finally got it right." The others laughed in agreement.

Don: The land brought all of this about, the freedom, the space. This brings us to the end of the story about the land. Open land for everyone to enjoy. Sure it was a lot tougher for our parents. But in the end it is really about this piece of property. We're not really sure what our future will bring. This land is for everybody to use. We saw what our parents did.

Today the motel is gone. Donna's home is in Manchester, NH. Raymond's retired from the Air Force and living in Colorado. Russell lives and works in Sutton. Don is retired and lives in Andover. Rich's home is next door to the family land. They're working to reclaim the soil (remember that early ball park). Manure came from Seery Hill to feed the field and the first crop of pumpkins last summer. A new mid-size barn is ready for Kat Darling's farm stand and for others to sell home-grown food, baked goods and for Rich's handcrafted wooden breadboards and the boys' picnic tables. So next time you're in the neighborhood, know it's open and you are welcome.

"Some people will never know about nature – unless we preserve it now."

-Marty & Mike Rushlow

The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust

Gifts & Thank Yous

We only print the list of our Membership and Annual Preservation Fund donations once a year, in the summer issue of the Chatter. If you have any questions concerning your membership status, please call Operations Manager, Sue Andrews at 526-6555 or email aslptsea@tds.net.

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Juniper Networks Company
Lincoln Financial Foundation
United Technologies

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Jeanie and David Plant

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Don and Lorraine Cline
Gross Family

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LORRAINE CLINE
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IN HONOR OF DALE AND JEAN CONLY

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IN HONOR OF BOB AND EMMA CRANE

Cynthia E. Crane

IN HONOR OF THE THOMAS DONOVAN

FAMILY
Richard and Linda Donovan

IN HONOR OF DAVID AND CYNTHIA

MARSHALL
Gerard and Jane Gold

MARILYN KIDDER AND THE STAFF AT COLDWELL BANKER MILESTONE REAL ESTATE (for donating a portion of every sales commission)

Pam Bowen
Emily Campbell
Jessica Davis
Sara Ellis
Donna Forest

Cheryl LaPrade
Sharon LaVigne
Chris Murray McKee
Judy Merrill
Jane Snow
Stacey Viandier
Joan Wallen

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK:

The Banks Gallery for a percentage of art sales.
Bartlett's Blueberry Farm for the donation from their "sin bin."
Charlie and Mary Lue Belden for office recycling.
Colby-Sawyer College for 2 saws and 2 loppers.
Sophie Courser for her 42 hours of internship service.
Sheridan Danforth for helping at the annual meeting.
Mary Jane Ellis for a donation to our wish list.
The Kearsarge Shopper for all they do.
Nancy Lyon for designing and producing our PR materials.

CHATTER DELIVERY

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Jackie Schiavo

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Shelby Blunt, Karen Ebel and Yah Maguire for volunteering in the office on a regular basis.

EASEMENT MONITORS FOR 2009

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Clare Bensley
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Charlie Betz
Dave Brazier
Sandy Brenner
Jim Broadhead
Adam Bronstein
Bob Brown
Lee and Bert Carvalho
Cotton Cleveland
Bill Clough
David and Celeste Cook
Glenda Cottrill
Michelle Cox



It is a yearly tradition now for 5th graders from the Sutton Elementary school to walk from school to the Johnson easement to do science field "research" in the pond. Lunches are packed to enjoy on the nearby lawn.

Bob and Emma Crane
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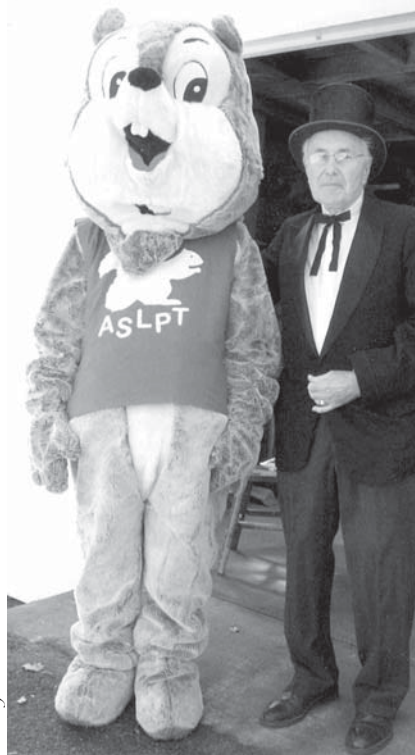


photo: Cynthia Marshall

Here our Ausbon Sargent goodwill squirrel mascot is ably assisted by the elegantly attired Carlton Bradford at one of the many public events that Seymour Woodsandfields visits every year.

Jack Sheehan
 Mike Sherrill
 Nancy Teach
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 Polly and Jim Van Dusen
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 Jim Ward
 John Warren
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 Sally Wilkins

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CHATTER 2010
 Lisa Ensign Wood
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 Bob Bowers
 Anne Carroll

“Conservation is the application of common sense to the common problems for the common good.”

-Gifford Pinchot

Land and Easement Donors

Our sincere appreciation to those who share their passion for natural places through land and easement donations.

Dorothy Adams* and Edith Nordstrom*
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 Sarah Yerkes
 Marjorie Young*
 * denotes deceased

Memoriam

The Board of Trustees and staff want to express their condolences to the families of three of our land donors who have passed away recently:
Sydney Badmington, Lincoln Gordon, and Thaddeus Johnson.
 Please visit our web site to read the Memoriam remembrances in the News menu of www.ausbonsargent.org.

They Walk Their Talk

An Interview with husband & wife Ausbon Sargent land donors and volunteers

by Janet Miller Haines



John Trachy & Cynthia Hayes donated a conservation easement on 267 acres of their farm and forest in Springfield in 2006. Both are active in conservation issues town and region wide.

(Author Janet Miller Haines suggests reading Robert Frost's poem "The Road Not Taken" to put you in the appropriate frame of mind for reading about the lives of Ausbon Sargent land donors and volunteers, Cynthia Hayes and John Trachy of Springfield.)

To prepare myself for this interview, I went to the ASLPT website and read up on the 267 acres of easement #86, Deer Hill Farm in Springfield. I also recalled meeting Cynthia Hayes and John Trachy at a number of volunteer appreciation events. The picture you get of these two people is of quiet conviction and competence. It is very clear that they are dedicated to the land. When I sat down with them for this article, I realized just how literally they take the phrase "dedicated to the land." By the end of our time together, I was convinced that their life together had been serendipitous.

Back in the early 1980's, Cynthia was teaching at the Ray School, the elementary school in Hanover, and after buying a house in the area, needed insurance. John was the agent who wrote up the policy – but it wasn't quite that simple. After a few months of not getting the bill, Cynthia called to check on the situation. John asked her to dinner to discuss the matter. He made delicious beef stew – and now the rest is history, almost. After a few years of running away, he popped the question on July 4th, 1990, and every year on that date, they return to Mt. Kearsarge to pay tribute to that special day in their lives. Initially living in Enfield they moved into Deer Hill Farm in 1994, the place Cynthia's parents had bought and named back in 1957, and where Cynthia had spent her summers growing up.

Both Cynthia and John live their lives now in ways that directly relate to the ways they were raised, and while this can be said for most of us, with them the line is straight, without detour or interruption.

As one of five kids, Cynthia, whose father was a surgeon, loved the time she got to spend during summers on the tree farm. Planting 100 black walnut saplings and listening to him talk about

the difference they would make in the lives of his grand and great-grandchildren is a powerful memory for Cynthia. From her mother, who volunteered at New London Hospital, she learned the idea that giving is really a very getting thing.

This influenced the way she taught at the Ray School. While her charge was to teach all subjects, she used nature as a vehicle whenever possible, so her students would appreciate the world in which they lived – to experience the nature that was all around them.

The open spaces and clean air were in stark contrast to the smog around the mountains in Los Angeles, where she lived and taught for a time after graduating from Colby Junior College and U.S.C. It was easy to see how she might have yearned for the hills of New Hampshire.

And how fortunate she was that the guy who didn't send the bill for the insurance premium was a native of New Hampshire.

One of nine children, John grew up in Franklin, NH. His father was in real estate and was a member of the Planning Board in Franklin. His association with the Rotary Club put him in contact with Jim Cleveland. John can recall hearing the two of them talk about the concept of giving back - "you can't just take and expect it all to work out" and "mountain justice" are words that still ring in his ears.

John's family lived in a home on one acre, but there were 70 "acres of fun" just out back. And that's where he learned such lessons as how to rake leaves - check the wind and let it help you.

Those same 70 acres would eventually make John question some of the things he did and some of what he saw. For instance, the summer job at the commercial laundry where everything ran directly into the river – was that good for the water? Seeing how far fluorescent tubes would fly before crashing to earth – the phosphorus that leached into the soil when the tubes broke – was that good for the soil?

With all this in their backgrounds, it's easy to see how they both would still be active in an organization such as Ausbon Sargent. Both Cynthia and John are easement monitors. John is a member and past chair of the Springfield Conservation Commission, referees for several Youth Ice Hockey organizations in the area, AND maintains 266.75 acres of land year-round.

Cynthia is the Springfield representative on the Ausbon Sargent Outreach Committee and is chair of the Zoning Board in Springfield. And the sheep on their property contribute to her hobby of spinning her own wool.

And considering that Springfield has a very large easement project underway by the Land Trust, the duo of Hayes and Trachy are doing what they can to make sure residents know all they need to know to make a decision at Town Meeting that would protect an aggregation of many farms and will go a long way to preserving the rural nature of the area.

And for you parents out there – John and Cynthia have some advice - unplug the TV; confiscate the Game Boys; ease up on all the structure. "No Child Left Inside" would be a program they would recommend.

Thank you John and Cynthia for the contributions you continue to make.

Janet Miller Haines minored in Journalism in college and likes to keep her hand in the writing game, as well as serving on Ausbon Sargent's Development Committee.

Natural Cathedrals

by Bob MacGowan

Reflections on the Courser Farm - Phase 4 project to conserve 363 acres including Trumbull Pond

As New Englanders our roots are in the land and for many it will always be that way. Even for those of us seventy or eighty years beyond childhood there are the wild places that we visit that still fill us with a child-like fascination and reinvigorate us with a sense of tradition and natural spirituality. The woods and fields, with their streams, ponds, and lakes teeming with life, are our cathedrals. In the confines of those places we contemplate the great questions of our lives. In wild places we can feel content in the knowledge that we are part of the natural world, for it is within the natural world that those of us who feel this sense of belonging can reconnect. While that connection lies dormant in some, it truly exists in all of us and reveals itself when we allow ourselves to experience it.

There is a reverence many of us feel in our natural cathedrals. How many times have you heard hunters say that they don't really care if they are successful on the hunt; their great satisfaction comes from being in the woods. How many fishermen don't really want the fish to bother them as they spend time with those they love in the quiet peace of a summer pond? Why do we strap on cumbersome snowshoes in freezing temperatures to labor through deep snow to get to a place we've never been because we have a need to be there? Often we know little about our destination when we embark, but our hearts know for sure when we have arrived. We have all been awed by something mystical in the wild places we love; a grove of sapling birch bathed in the late summer glow, the way the wind moves across bronze grass in October, or the stunning beauty of a January moon illuminating a frozen pond.

The Celtic people called these 'thin places'; places where the material and spiritual worlds came as close as they possibly could to becoming one. Despite what you believe, there is something in most of us that 'centers' when we are immersed in the natural world and inexplicably we are able to stop, sense and hear. Trumbull Pond in Webster, New Hampshire is one of those places.

So, there are reasons we desperately need our wild places. It is our way to connect. Biological diversity, environmental necessity, and moral responsibility are all very legitimate reasons to preserve pristine, undeveloped places like Trumbull Pond, but for any of us who have spent time there, I believe the consensus is less specific. We need this place preserved simply for what it is. It is a place where our natural cathedral is most resplendent. Listen to birds on a spring morning, bask in the sun of a summer afternoon or strap on a pair of skates and glide across the frozen surface to catch a glimpse of Mount Kearsarge. We want others to enjoy it as much as we want to be there by ourselves.

We are truly fortunate to live in a place like New Hampshire where the beauty and splendor of our wild places still surround us and we understand how much we need it. That is the very reason we live here.

Bob MacGowan and his wife Mary Jo live on Clough Sanborn Hill in Webster and have enjoyed the seasons at Trumbull Pond for many years. As passionate amateur writers, Bob and Mary Jo enjoy working collaboratively to articulate their love for the special wild places that make New Hampshire what it is.

Courser Phase 4

4 Phase Goal to Protect
1238 acres
in Webster & Warner

3 of 4 phases completed:
895 acres now protected
343 acres still to be protected
Private fundraising needed:
\$80,000+ must be raised.

Facts of Courser Phase 4

- Visible from White Plains Road in Webster.
- Protects significant wildlife habitat for NH species of special concern.
- 1900 acres nearby and adjacent to other conserved lands owned by the family and the NH Fish and Game Department to provide wildlife habitat for species with large home ranges including bear, moose, deer, coyote, fox and bobcat.
- Public access for hiking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, nature observation, hunting and other similar pedestrian recreational activities.
- Snowmobile trail maintained by the local snowmobile club – the Kearsarge Trail Snails.

Help us complete this 1238 acre conservation project.



photos: Nancy Lyon

Trumbull Pond shown above will be conserved in Courser- Phase 4 through the partnership efforts of: Ausbon Sargent, The Nature Conservancy, the Courser Family, Land and Community Heritage Program, Open Space Institute, NH State Conservation Committee, Town of Webster, private foundations and donors.

Love For The Land

Meet our two newly elected Board members

by Rick Stecker

It is a privilege to meet the newly nominated trustees of Ausbon Sargent and to introduce them to our readers. Both nominees have been coming to the Lake Sunapee region since the mid-sixties; both trustees are impressed by the efficiency of the Ausbon Sargent structural organization and the dedication of the volunteers and the staff. Both have been introduced to this area through others who have had a deep and abiding love for the land.

I met Martha Cottrill at her office and discovered that our lives had crossed in many ways. Both of our parents worked for Ohio State University; we both attended related country day schools; we share a love for Cambridge, MA – it was déjà vu all over again! I almost forgot to conduct the interview. I then realized that taking in the whole person is standard operating procedure for her at Taylor, Cottrill Investment Advisors. She described her work style as being in the “people end” of the business, making people worry less about their financial concerns, because she would be attentive to the entirety of their needs.

Martha keeps a full schedule, reminding me of the rotations of a Sufi Dervish, remaining serene while always spinning. She serves on the board of the Women’s Fund of New Hampshire and the Investment Committee of the New London Hospital; she is active with the Christian Education committee of the First Baptist Church. She is also the mother of three girls and a boy (from a 1st grader through a senior in high school). She gardens, cycles, skis, is an avid member of an indoor soccer league, and with her husband, Tom, has training in Mustang GT and open formula racing!

Martha has spent a semester with the National Outdoor Leadership School: their goal is to enjoy the outdoors, but to leave no trace of your presence. Her love for the land came through her parents’ appreciation of the Lake Sunapee region; she continues to express this appreciation by allocating some of her time to forward Ausbon Sargent’s program of



stewardship of this area’s beautiful resources.

I saw Cindy Lawson only briefly; her latest hobby is commuting to see her children and her family in Wisconsin. In the flurry of her travel she e-mailed me her write-up:

“Cindy Lawson remembers looking at Colby Junior College as a possibility for receiving training as a medical technologist, instead she took her bachelor’s degree from Cedar Crest College in Allentown, PA. She spent the next thirty plus years working in microbiology laboratories in Pennsylvania and Connecticut. In 1967, she met her future husband Jud, who took her to meet his family at their farmhouse in Springfield, NH. From that point forward she has returned to NH

to enjoy family gatherings: her favorite activity was joining her father-in-law, Chuck, as he painted the blazes marking out the boundaries of his property. Jud and Cindy acquired the family farm in 2005 and retired to this area the following year.



Cindy brings to the ASLPT the talents of a generalist; she is involved in the membership and lands committees and has also assisted in the office. In addition to her hospital work, Cindy has owned a wall stenciling and mural business; she loves tennis, golf, kayaking,

snowshoeing, and when she has spare time she travels to California to visit her two daughters and their new babies.”

My brief notes on Cindy remind me that she is a bundle of energy – a wonderful asset for any organization.

We thank Martha and Cindy for their present and future work on behalf of the Land Trust.

Rick Stecker is a minister, a teacher, a psychoanalytic researcher and friend of Ausbon Sargent. He and his wife, Ann Page Stecker, have lived in the area since 1979.

We’ve made some great changes to our web site at:

www.ausbonsargent.org

With new menus it’s easier to find what you are looking for. There’s a new picture/video gallery too.

(continued from page 11) I am also a firm believer in supporting the small family farm. Jerry Hersey reminds us of where our food comes from, and of our connection to the land. To preserve this place in our town will allow farmers for generations to come to carry on this rich tradition. Hersey farm nourishes us, in both body and spirit. I’m honored to be part of an effort to keep it so.”

Nancy Teach (College administrator, past Chair Ausbon Sargent Board of Trustees)

“My timing was perfect to buy my first home and move to Andover. The Hersey property easement affirms why I moved to Andover. Heading to the west into Andover it is a gateway. Andover’s residents embrace the town’s rural nature and are beginning to understand that preserving land through conservation easements is not about being against building new homes, nor are we all ‘tree huggers’ instead, it’s about being thoughtful about our future. And the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust is not just for those New London folks on the hill; it’s for our 12-town region in the larger state of New Hampshire.”

Hersey Family Farm - Phase 2 Underway

55 acres, East Andover



Original oil painting of the Hersey Farms by Sally Ladd Cole represented by The Banks Gallery at www.thebanksgallery.com

Together, “we” can make it happen! By summer, 55 acres will be added to the already conserved 268 acres of the Hersey Family Farm on both sides of Route 11 in East Andover. The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust has been awarded acquisition funds by the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (one of only 5 awarded in the state) to help purchase a conservation easement on Roger Hersey’s 55 acres of fields and woodlands. The Andover Conservation Commission committed funds to the same purpose. We’re delighted to announce that with a combination of public and private funds and a generous discount by Roger Hersey, we are very close to having raised the \$165,000 needed to conserve the farm.

During both phases of the Hersey Family Farm projects, a wonderful committee of Andover residents has worked with Ausbon Sargent staff to make the protection of these two gateway properties to East Andover a reality. We want to share comments by some of the members of this grassroots committee explaining why they were willing, in the midst of their busy lives, to find the time to ask their friends and neighbors to give money to keep this land undeveloped.

Charlie Darling (Editor of the Andover Beacon)

“I remember so well what this area was like 50 years ago, when I was a child. Being part of that landscape of working farms and working woodlands shaped me in profound ways, giving me a deep respect for the land, the people who work on it, and the families who depend on it. . . . I hope the rest of the community feels the same way and will help protect the Hersey Family Farms for future generations to be shaped by.”

Mary Anne Broshek (Easement donor, Chair of Andover Conservation Commission)

“As someone who put a conservation easement on her own farm, I believe that protecting and preserving farms is essential for two reasons: farms and forests are what makes NH the state that it is and buying food from local farms is the only way to truly know what you are eating - it eliminates the need for trucking food across the country and provides education on how food is grown.”

Chris Norris (Retired school administrator, Proctor Academy Trustee, Andover Historical Society Trustee)

“Recent Andover Master Plans have consistently concluded that maintenance of the town’s bucolic rural character is of primary importance to the town’s residents. This special character is one of the reasons Kit and I settled in Andover. And there are perhaps no other properties in the town that so visibly and so compellingly exemplify this quality than do the Hersey farms. It is simply a gorgeous gateway into the town. How fortunate we are that now, through the efforts of Jerry and Roger Hersey, many many Andover residents, some generous non-residents and Ausbon Sargent, that the long-held dream of preserving both these properties in perpetuity is becoming a reality for the town of Andover.”

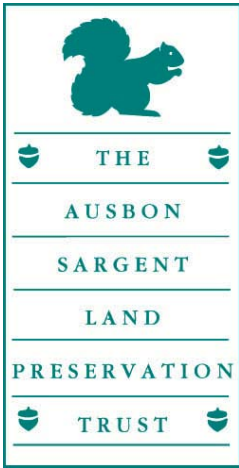
Stacey Viandier (Realtor, CB Milestone Real Estate and Teacher, Proctor Academy)

“Hersey Farm is a special place that merits my time and money. I have five specific reasons for which I spend time talking about conserving the Hersey Farm: aesthetic, environmental, economic, emotional and practical. Driving to Andover from points east, I know I’m a stone’s throw from home once I get to the corner of Hersey farm and see the red doors. For years now, I realize that I associate Hersey Farm with “home.” Environmentally, economically and practically speaking, it’s urgent that we commit ourselves to preserving farms for food security and for posterity. Furthermore, it’s a beautiful place. I smile whenever I see Jerry outside, mending fences, haying, feeding his cows a flake of hay.”

Heather Rogers (Learning Specialist, Proctor Academy and former Conservation Project Manager in Maine)

“As a newcomer to Andover, I was immediately drawn to Hersey Farm. With even a quick glance, the farm gives me a picture of the town’s history. The rolling fields, anchored by the farmhouses, provide a sense of place that is unmistakable. Preserving these places is so important to protecting a community’s character, and if we don’t seize these opportunities now, they are lost forever.”

(continued on page 10)



71 Pleasant Street
 P.O. Box 2040
 New London
 New Hampshire
 03257
 (603) 526-6555
 aslpt@tds.net
 www.ausbonsargent.org

Encounter more "Wildlife Sightings" at our web site.
www.ausbonsargent.org



Jason & Ann Pitts saw this nocturnal Ermine one afternoon in the King Hill area. It is all white except for the black tip on its tail. They sent this picture to our web site's "Wildlife Sightings."

Thanks to Newsletter Editor Nancy Lyon for coordination, layout and editing. And special thanks to all our guest authors!

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AND
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You can find out more about us on our web site at www.ausbonsargent.org

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